



DENALI NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE
P.O. Box 9
Denali Park, Alaska 99755

Winterfest
~ 2003 ~



Discover Denali in Winter!

February 21-23, 2003

Denali National Park & Preserve

THIS EVENT CELEBRATES ALL THAT DENALI NATIONAL PARK HAS TO OFFER IN THE WINTER.

WHETHER SKIING, SNOWSHOEING, DOGSLLEDDING OR JUST ENJOYING THE WHITE WINTER ENVIRONMENT,

DENALI HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. COME CELEBRATE THE BEAUTY OF OUR NATIONAL PARK,

LEARN ABOUT THE WINTER ENVIRONMENT AND HAVE LOTS OF FUN.

Food and Lodging

Food and Drinks: Lunch and snacks will be available at the Visitor Center on Saturday and Sunday. Free hot drinks will be provided all weekend.

Lodging: During the winter months, the closest services to the park entrance are in Cantwell, 27 miles south of the park entrance, and in Healy, 12 miles north of the park entrance. Both communities have restaurants, convenience stores, and overnight accommodations that are open year-round. Riley Creek Campground, located near the park entrance, is open to visitors; however campers are advised that the water and sewer utilities have been shut down for the winter. For more information about local area lodging and services, check the Greater Healy/Denali Chamber of Commerce website at www.denalichamber.com.

Typical Weather: Winter conditions vary greatly, but in February, temperatures average between -6 and 14 degrees Fahrenheit. However, be prepared for colder temperatures. At the end of February, Denali has more than 9 hours of daylight.

SPONSORED BY

- Alaska Natural History Association
- Denali National Park & Preserve
- Denali Foundation
- Doyon/ARAMARK a joint venture
- Greater Healy/Denali Chamber of Commerce
- UAF Outdoor Adventures

Winterfest is sponsored by the National Park Service and the Alaska Natural History Association. The Association is dedicated to enhancing understanding of Alaska's natural and cultural heritage. It provides funding for Winterfest and other educational programs from revenue earned at its Visitor Center bookstore. Also providing assistance are the Denali Foundation, Denali Park Resorts, the Greater Healy/Denali Chamber of Commerce and UAF Outdoor Adventures.

Visit the Alaska Natural History Association store in the Denali Park Visitor Center for books and other informative materials about Denali National Park & Preserve. Or visit the Association website at www.alaskanha.org

Directions to Denali Winterfest!

The Denali National Park entrance is located at milepost 237 of the George Parks Highway. The Visitor Center is located a mile 1 on the Denali Park Road. The McKinley Park Community Center turnoff is located at mile 230 of the George Parks Highway, 7 miles south of the park entrance. Follow the gravel road a quarter of a mile to the community center.

The Healy Tri-Valley Community Center is located in the town of Healy, 12 miles north of the park entrance. Turn onto the Healy Spur Road, mile 248.8 of the George Parks Highway, and follow the road a quarter of a mile to the community center.

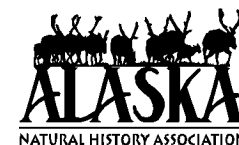
The Tri-Valley School is also located in Healy. At milepost 249 of the George Parks Highway, Turn onto Suntrana road and drive approximately one half of a mile. The school is located at the end of the road, and the cafeteria is inside the school.

If you are driving to Denali National Park in February, the road conditions can vary greatly. Please plan for extra travel time. Check the current weather and highway conditions before departing.

For more information contact the Denali National Park Headquarters at (907) 683-2294, or Check the website at www.nps.gov/dena. You may also contact the Denali Foundation at (907) 683-2597. For regional information, contact the Greater Healy/Denali Chamber of commerce through their website at www.denalichamber.com.



*Greater
Healy/Denali
Chamber of
Commerce*



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS



*Doyon/ARAMARK
a joint venture*



Be Prepared!

Denali during the winter is beautiful, but can be very challenging. Be prepared for winter’s unpredictable nature.

WHAT TO BRING:

- * The best winter clothing is wool, polypropylene, or similar materials, but not cotton.
- * Skiing & snowshoeing gear
Limited gear will be available.
- * Camera
- * Thermos

DRESSING FOR SUCCESS:

- * The Head: Bring several hats options from very warm to light weight.
- * The Body: Layers are most effective, start with thin layers at the skin and getting progressively heavier. This way you can easily adjust your body temperature.
- * The Lower Body: Dress in layers, starting with thin layers at the skin. This is the best way to easily adjust one’s body temperature.
- * The Hands: Bring a selection of gloves and mittens.
- * The Feet: Warm, insulated winter boots are recommended.
- * Other Things: Consider a scarf, chemical handwarmers, face masks, neck warmers, etc.

Free Clinics

All clinics will start outside the Visitor Center

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING CLINIC: Come learn the basics of the diagonal stride. Topics covered will include: equipment care, wax versus non-wax skis, how to fall correctly and how to get up, and travel techniques. Bring your skis if you have them, a limited number of demo skis will be available. The clinic begins at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

SKATE SKIING CLINIC: Try out the newest style of skiing. Previous cross-country Skiing experience is recommended. Bring any style of Nordic ski. Clinic begins Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

SKI-JORING CLINIC: Skis and Dogs: The greatest combination for winter fun. Become a traveling team with your pet. Learn the basics of equipment, training and technique. Clinic starts at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

SNOWSHOE CLINIC: Learn about this wonderful and easy mode of travel. Pick Up a few tricks while learning about basic equipment and skills. Soon you will Be ready for Sunday’s winter trip. Clinic begins at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

Free Guided Trips

All groups will meet outside the Visitor Center

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRIP: Dust off those skis and join the guided ski trip. Practice your skiing skills with pointers from one of our experienced instructors. There is a limited supply of ski equipment available for use. The trip starts at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

SKI-JORING TRIP: Bring your dog for the ski-jor trip at 1:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon. Nothing helps train a dog better than following a skilled ski-jor team. The experienced instructor and dog will pass on tips and encouragement to you and your pooch. Ski experience is recommended. Bring your skis, dog harness, people harness, and a line. There will be a limited amount of equipment to borrow.

SNOWSHOE TRIP: Bring your snowshoes for this fun and informative trip. There Are few pairs of “demo” snowshoes available for use. This trip starts at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.

Ongoing Demonstrations...

WATCH AND LEARN: Talented Ice Carver, Sidonia Lynch, will shape a frozen masterpiece at the Visitor Center on Saturday and Sunday. You can also see her hard at work as you watch the creations emerge from the large blocks of ice on Friday at the Healy Tri-Valley Community Center. Why not form a team on Saturday and try your own hand at snow block carving? Prizes will be awarded Sunday, noon, at the Visitor Center for the best snow carving. Poke around the modern winter encampment display, and learn what it takes to spend a night outside in the sub-zero temperatures. Kids will find plenty to do all day long with a variety of arts and crafts inside the Visitor Center and the dog sled rides outside.

And More!

COME TO THE VISITOR CENTER ON SATURDAY FOR EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS

Earthquake Presentation: Join Denali National Park & Preserve geologist, Phil Brease for an informative slide show about the recent movin’ and shakin’ we’ve experienced in the Alaskan interior. He will talk about the recent earthquake as well as the Denali Fault system. Meet in the auditorium at the Visitor Center at 11:00 a.m., Saturday morning.

Snow Safety Presentation: Tom Habecker explains the fundamentals of snow safety and avalanche awareness. These skills are essential for winter outdoor activites. This presentation begins at 10:00 am in the Visitor Center auditorium.

Dog Hair Spinning Demonstration: Meet with Shoo Shalasky and explore the art of dog hair spinning. Learn how she turns the fur of a shedding dog into a usable material. This hands-on exhibit will be set up all day Saturday in the Visitor Center.

Snow Shelter Building: Learn the fundamentals of snow shelter building. Even if you miss this presentation, don’t forget to crawl inside a finished shelter and imagine spending the night, sheltered from the harsh elements, on the upper slopes of Denali. The program starts at 1 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

Storytelling: Nome Stickivan, from Cantwell, shares stories beginning in his childhood years about his life as an Alaskan Native. In addition, join him in a sing-along as he strums guitar. Come inside after a brisk day outside for this engaging hour. The program begins at 3 p.m., Saturday afternoon in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Winter Ecology Walk: Explore the winter environment with a scientific eye. Follow Nan Eagleson on this hour and a half walk as she discusses the world of winter in Denali. Meet at the Visitor Center on Saturday, at 1:30 p.m.

Winter Patrol in Denali: Join Denali National Park & Preserve’s Kennels Manager, Karen Fortier, for a presentation about the important winter responsibilities of the park’s Alaskan huskies. Listen to her speak about winter operations in the oldest working dog kennels in the National Park Service. The program begins at 2 p.m. in the Visitor Center.

Live Music and Dancing!! Put your dancing shoes on Saturday night at 9:00 p.m. DANG! takes the stage at the Tri-Valley Community Center. Also, prepare your palette for a Homebrew Contest sponsored by The Great Bear Brewery and Winterfest’s 2nd Annual Chili Cookoff. Call 683-2597 to enter either contest. Don’t miss it!!

Festival Time Schedule

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Healy Tri-Valley Community Center:

Join Ice Carver Sidonia Lynch as she creates another frozen masterpiece. Learn how she sculpts and carves in this unique winter medium.

McKinley Park Community Center, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Come and enjoy the *Winterfest Kickoff Celebration!* There will be a *Free Spaghetti Dinner* catered by *The Perch*, along with Denali’s first *Edible Art Contest*. Bring your artistic creations to the community center between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. Whether it is a Picasso out of pizza or Monet out of macaroni, your artistic medium must be edible. Ballots for the most favored, or should we say “flavored” masterpiece will be cast and then all creation will be devoured!

McKinley Park Community Center, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Following the Spaghetti Dinner and Edible Art Contest will be the evening’s highlight presentation. Alaskan Climber **Brian Okonek** will talk about *Climbing in Alaska*. Don’t miss this exciting presentation!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Denali National Park Visitor Center:

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| 9-10 a.m. | Coffee |
| 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Snowshoe Skills Clinic
Ski-joring Clinic |
| 10-11:30 a.m. | Avalanche Safety Presentation |
| 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Earthquake Presentation |
| 1-3 p.m. | Cross-Country Skiing Clinic
Skate Ski Clinic |
| 1-2 p.m. | Snow Shelter Building Clinic |
| 1:30 – 3 p.m. | Winter Ecology Walk |
| 2-3 p.m. | Kennels Winter Patrol Presentation |
| 3-4 p.m. | Storytelling and Singing hour with Nome Stickivan |

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 6:00 p.m.

Healy Tri-Valley Community Center

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| 6-9 p.m. | Chili Cook-Off and Homebrew Contest
Curling Demonstration
Hockey Exhibition Match |
| 9 p.m. | Live Music and Dancing with DANG! |

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Healy Tri-Valley School Cafeteria

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| 8:30-10 a.m. | All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast
\$5 per person and \$15 per family |
| <u>Denali National Park Visitor Center 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</u> | |
| 10 a.m. -12 p.m. | Guided Cross Country Ski Trip |
| 1-3 p.m. | Guided Ski-jor Trip
Guided Snowshoe Trip |